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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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James A. Finch
Vice President
Standard Tobacco Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 100
Maysville, Kentucky 41056

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Dear Mr. Finch:

This letter is in reference to your comment filed in the Commission's must-carry/retransmission consent proceeding, MM Docket No. 92-259. Specifically, you request that your cable systems in Bracken-and Mason Counties, Kentucky, be considered in the Cincinnati and Lexington ADIs so that they may continue to carry the stations from both markets.

The Commission's must-carry/retransmission consent proceeding was intended to consider the general rules and procedures needed to implement the related provisions of the 1992 Cable Act. I have enclosed the <u>Report and Order</u> which contains the newly-adopted must-carry and retransmission consent rules and sets forth the procedures established to consider individual situations such as yours. This rulemaking proceeding was not meant to consider specific cases.

With respect to your situation, under the Act and the rules adopted by the Commission, the broadcast television stations licensed to the Cincinnati ADI are considered local for your cable systems. These stations may elect must-carry or retransmission consent status for carriage on your system. The carriage of any other broadcast television stations is at your discretion until October 6, 1993, the effective date of the retransmission consent rules. After that date, you may carry television stations that are not considered local only if the licensee grants retransmission consent.

Pursuant to the new regulatory scheme, you have two options for continued carriage of the Lexington, Kentucky, television stations. First, you may negotiate with the licensees of these stations for retransmission consent. Second, you may file a petition for special relief with the Commission requesting that the market of each Lexington station be amended to include your cable communities. The procedures and required supporting information for a Commission determination in this regard are explained in paragraphs 42 through 47 of the Report and Order. Should the Commission grant your petition, the Lexington stations would then be considered "local" in your cable communities and would be entitled to elect must-carry or retransmission consent status for carriage on your systems.

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I hope this information is helpful. If you should have any further questions regarding the new rules or the procedures for filing a petition for special relief, please contact Marcia Glauberman at 202-632-5414.

Sincerely,

Roy J. Stewart

Chief, Mass Media Bureau

**Enclosure** 

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